

First On-Line International Colloquium on Translation: Intercultural Transfer

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During the month of March 1997 the *Facultat de Traducció i Interpretació* of the *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona* held its first on-line colloquium on translation, organised by Seán Golden, with technical assistance from Joan Parra. The following are very slightly edited extracts from the official position papers by Doug Robinson (author of *The Translator's Turn*, Johns Hopkins UP, 1991 and *Translation and Taboo*, Northern Illinois UP, 1996) and Anthony Pym (author of *Translation and Text Transfer: An Essay on the Principles of Intercultural Communication*, Frankfurt/Main etc.: Lang, 1992, and *Epistemological Problems in Translation and its Teaching*, Calaceite: Caminade, 1993), and the official response by Michael Cronin (author of *Translating Ireland: Translation, Languages, Cultures*, Cork University Press, 1996), and, in an attempt to maintain some of the flavour of the event, a very limited and slightly edited selection of some of the more theoretical responses that appeared during the 'virtual' discussion, as well as some of the 'housekeeping' messages that commented upon the evolving nature of the colloquium. Hypertext links that appeared in the originals are indicated by [link]. There were more than 160 participants from some 35 different countries, and the flow of messages was heavy. Many of the messages

were quite dense with information and/or reflection. It is not possible to do full justice to the detailed interchanges that took place in the space available here, and as a result many of the most active participants are not represented in these extracts. The complete selection of position papers, responses and messages may still be consulted at <http://cc.uab.es/~iuts0/colloquium.html>. (Please note that the address iuts0 ends with the number zero, not with the letter 'o'.)]

[Contents of the original Home Page of the On-line Colloquium]

Welcome to the first on-line international colloquium on translation to be organised by the *Facultat de Traducció i Interpretació* of the *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*. This is a pilot project for future on-line seminars, symposia, colloquia and congresses in the fields of translation practice, translation teaching, translation theory and translation studies.

We [invited] Doug Robinson and Anthony Pym to present position papers on the subject of intercultural transfer; and we [invited] Michael Cronin to respond to their position papers in order to begin a debate on this subject.

As frequently happens with a 'live' colloquium, the invited speakers [began] to debate among themselves the contents

of their respective position papers. The position papers by Doug Robinson and Anthony Pym, the Response by Michael Cronin, and Robinson's and Pym's «virtual» debate are all listed below.

The more general debate [was] carried out over the TRANSFER-L list [created for that purpose]. Participants [were] invited to subscribe [free of charge] to this list... Subscribers [sent] their questions, comments and suggestions to the authors by means of this list, and the authors [responded] directly to the list. In this way all participants [received] all of the relevant messages. (Messages received [were] published on a specific Web page on an accumulative basis.)

The *On-line Translation Colloquium* [was to] open formally on 5 March 1997, and [to] close formally on 14 March 1997. [In the event, it opened, spontaneously, a bit earlier, and closed a bit later, when TRANSFER-L, which had been

created for this purpose only, was closed down.]

The Invisible Hands by Doug Robinson [extract included here]

Translation as a Transaction Cost by Anthony Pym [extract not included here: a version of this text appeared in *Meta* 40/4 (1995), 594-605.]

Transfere non semper necesse est by Anthony Pym [extract included here]

Hand over Fist?, Michael Cronin's Response... [extract included here]

Guiding the Guiding Hand, Anthony Pym's response to Doug Robinson [extract not included here]

Making Sense of the Chaos, Doug Robinson's response to Anthony Pym [extract not included here]

Of Excluded Middles and Fine Lines, Doug Robinson's Response to Michael Cronin [extract not included here]

Messages received [some extracts included here]